

### EQUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Public Works Local Area Network Purchase Concept

MEEING DATE: December 18, 1991

PREPARED BY: Public Works Director

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the City Council authorize staff to proceed with the

acquisition of a microcomputer local area network at a cost not

to exceed \$30,000.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: As part of the 1991/92 operating budget, the City Council approved the purchase of a microcomputer local area network

approved the purchase of a microcomputer local area network for the Public Works Departmenc. This purchase was a major part of the previously approved switch from a minicomputer-

based, limited use, drafting system to a more flexible, less expensive microcomputer-based system. This switch was approved by the Council in March 1991 (Exhibit A).

The budget request for the network (Exhibit B) was for \$49,000. In light of budget restrictions, it was decided to phase the work; thus \$30,000 was approved in the budget with the following funding:

\$7,500 Sewer Fund \$7,500 Water Fund \$7,500 Gas Tax \$7,500 Equipment Fund

Now that we have completed the drafting switch to microcomputers, the need for the local area network to share drawings and the plotter is more critical than ever. In our budget request we assumed we would go to bid for a complete turn-key package. However, through our research and preparatory training we have concluded that the City would be better served by purchasing the various system components separately and setting up the network ourselves. We would still obtain price quotes on the components from various vendors. We will save resale markup and installation costs. We will also be able to select and purchase the components on our schedule rather than specifying and purchasing everything in one lump sum. We propose to make limited use (not to exceed \$2,000) of a local consultant to help select some of the hardware and assist in the initial set up.

In this way, our staf? will have a much better knowledge of the system and will be able to add users and make system changes without an expensive on-going support contract. Thus we will save money in the long run as well as in the short term.

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March Comments

THOMAS A. PETERSON

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Public Works Local Area Network Purchase Concept December 18, 1991 Page 2

The components of the system will cost less than \$5,000 apiece, so our normal informal purchasing procedures can be used. However, we do wish to obtain Council approval for the specifying of a Hewlett-Packard (HP) file server. The file server is the most critical component of the system and HP is well known for reliability and quality. All the existing microcomputers to be networked are made by HP, thus network administration will be simpler.

The network project includes some new work stations. For this and for future new microcomputers to be added to the network, we wish to investigate the use of "clone" machines in order to reduce costs. In order to be consistent with either our system or the Finance and Personnel departments\*, we ask that Council limit the specification to either HP or HIQ microcomputers. The purchase of HIQ computers for Finance and Personnel was recently approved by the 'City Council.

FUNDING: Sewer, Water, Gas Tax and Equipment funds (25% each, already included in budget). No additional funding needed.

Jack L. Ronsko Public Works Director

Prepared by Richard C. Prima, Jr., Assistant City Engineer

JLR/RCP/1m

Attachments

cc: City Attorney Purchasing Officer

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# CITY OF LODI

## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE:

Acquisition of Drafting Computer and Software for the Public Works

Department - Engineering Division

MEETING DATE:

March 20, 1991

PREPARED BY:

Public Works Director

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the City Council approve the purchase of a microcomputer from Hail-Mark Electronics and software for drafting and

appropriate \$14,100 for the system.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Engineering Division has been using a dedicated computer drafting system (Accugraph) since 1987 for mapping and construction plans. This system runs on a minicomputer with three terminals. Hardware maintenance and software

support/upgrade costs are approximately 58,700 per year. The system is due for an upgrade due to reduced response times, mainly in working with large City maps. Upgrade options include upgrading the minicomputer microprocessor and disc storage system; and upgrading the software to Accugraph's next product, which would require purchase of Unix-based workstations (new computers). The preferred alternative, however, is to replace the system with a microcomputer (PC) based product "AutoCAD".

One PC with a copy of AutoCAD was approved in the current budget and has been purchased. As described in the attached "Special Allocation Request", the system has performed far better than anticipated and most of the maps on the old system have been transferred to the new system. To fully replace the old system, we will need to: 1) add two more PCs with AutoCAD, and 2) link the PCs on a local area network (LAN). We are still investigating appropriate network hardware and software and will make this request in the normal budget cycle. However, we have an immediate need for me of the two additional PCs. Our technicians find themselves "in-between" on which system to use for some tasks and we must manage both instead of one system. We cannot function on only on2 drafting PC. In addition, the City can save approximately \$2,700 this fiscal year by cancelling hardware maintenance and software support on the old system.

We also request to purchase this PC from the same vendor we used earlier this fiscal year. That purchase, which included four other microcomputer systems for use elsewhere in %heDepartment, was done under a formal bid. Hall-Mark Company was the low bidder and has performed satisfactorily and has offered this system at the same price (or lower on some components). Their price is still lower than the manufacturer's (Hewlett-Packard) latest quoted price including a government discount. Thus, we feel it is in the City's best interests to waive the formal bidding process for this purchase.

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THOMAS A. PETERSON
City Manager

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Fund Code: See Below

Account Code:

Object Code:

REPLACEMENT

Tax Trade-in \$ 3,000

#### JUSTI FICATION:

This request is for the purchase of hardware and software for a local area network (LAN) to interconnect the Department's microcomputers. This is needed in order to share data files, storage devices, and output devices. It will also provide an economical and efficient way to connect the Department's microcomputers to the AS/400. The system will be administered by existing Public Works staff with vendor scppcrt.

This item was conceptually approved by the MIS Committee last year. At that time, a number of basic criteria were still being considered. These have now been resolved as follows:

- Orafting System Last year, the upgrade path for the drafting system consisted of three choices:
  - 1) Upgrade the existing HP 1000 microcomputer.
  - 2) Upgrade the Accugraph software to the next product line which would require new computers (UNIX-based workstations).
  - 3) Switch to AutoCAD which would run on PCs or workstations.

We have determined that AutoCAD on PCs is a viable, lower-cost solution.

- File Server Without the need to connect the HP 1000 or a workstation, a PC-based file server is the appropriate choice.
- \* Network Software Based on the Electric Utility Department's choice in network software, recent announcements by both Hewlett-Packard and IBM, and reviews and articles in industry publications, we are comfortable with Novell Netware.
- \* Wiring With completion of the City Hall addition still two years away, we propose to use low-cost, unshielded, twisted pair wiring, surface-mounted.

This proposal also includes additions to *the* drafting system which will provide a system comparable to the old system we are in the process of replacing. It will also add a program module (WildCAD) to the surveying system that will integrate it with the drafting system (AutoCAD).

#### RESOLUTION NO. 91-235 ---------

A RESOLUTION OF THE LODI CITY COUNCIL APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF A LOCAL AREA NETWORK FOR THE LODI PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, Lodi Municipal Code, Section 3.20.070 authorizes dispensing with bidding procedures for purchases of supplies or property when the City Council determines that the purchase or method of purchase would be in the best interests of the City;

MOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lodi City Council hereby approves the specification of a Hewlett-Packard file server and either Hewlett-Packard or HIQ micro computers for the Public Works Department. Hewlett-Packard has previously been specified for the Public Works Department and has provided quality equipment and service. HIQ of Sunnyvale, California, with a service outlet in Stockton, California, has been recommended by the City's contracted consultant, Morada Corporation of Lodi, based on HIQ's price and ability to service their equipment locally, and HIQ is also furnishing equipment to the Finance and Personnel Departments.

Dated: December 18, 1991

I hereby certify that Resolution No. 91- was passed and adopted by the Lodi City Council in a regular meeting held December 18, 1991 by the following vote:

Ayes:

Council Members - Pennino, Sieglock, Snider and Pinkerton

(Mayor)

Noes:

Council Members - None

Absent:

Council Members - Hinchman

Alice M. Reimche

City Clerk

91 - 235

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